

Warren's (Fifth Corps) took possession of the Weldon Railroad on the 18th of August, and attempts to dislodge him brought on a number of sanguinary engagements with A. P. Hill's Corps, one of which (19th) Hill captured two thousand and seven hundred prisoners. Our brigade was not in this battle. A combined attack on Warren's fortifications on the railroad was made in the morning of the 21st by our brigade and General Ramo's, with a force of artillery, making a demonstration down the railroad in his front, while the real attack was to be made by a larger force under General Mahone on his left flank. It did not succeed. We lay between our batteries (thirty pieces) and theirs during the artillery duel which opened the ball, and came in for some pretty severe shelling. We then charged, driving in their pickets and advanced line, and lay down under cover of a ravine quite close up to their works, awaiting the signal of Mahone's success to rush in. Mahone's attack failed, and we lay low till night enabled us to withdraw under cover of darkness. We lost some men killed and a number wounded, and if Warren had known how few we were in his front, and had sent out an adequate force, he might have captured the most of these two brigades, isolated as we were.

On the afternoon of the 25th our brigade and Cooke's, with Lane's, attacked Hancock's Corps well intrenched at Reams' Station, a previous charge by other troops having been repulsed. We carried their works handsomely, capturing two thousand prisoners and nine pieces of artillery. Hancock retired during the night and we returned to Petersburg. Our loss was considerable, including Lieutenant-Colonel Bird, killed, after which, to the close of the war, the regiment had but one field officer. The ranking captains entitled to the positions of Lieutenant-Colonel and Major were prisoners at Johnson's Island. This law of succession by seniority, customary and perhaps the best under ordinary circumstances, worked very great injury to many regiments situated as ours was. As has been mentioned, the Eleventh most of the time after Gettysburg had but one field officer, and from September 30, 1864, to the fall of Petersburg, during